(c) The Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency & accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These includes-

(i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(ii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(iii) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance as a preventive measure;

(iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering & contracting process by the CVC;

(v) Instructions issued by the CVC advising the organizations to adopt integrity pact in major Government procurement activities;

(vi) India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations' Convention against Corruption;

(vii) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems; and

(viii) Issue of Citizen Charters.

Reservation for SCs and STs

642. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about assurance given by U.P.A. Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) regarding Reservation Act for SCs/STs in services;

(b) if so, the action taken by his Ministry to present Bill for the above subject; and

(c) the status of the Bill, if any, introduced by the 2004-09 U.P.A. Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Bill, namely, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2004 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22.12.2004 which was withdrawn on 22.12.2008, and a new Bill, namely, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2008 was introduced in the same House. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on 23.12.2008 but it could not be discussed in the Lok Sabha and has since lapsed consequent upon the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha.

Unemployment and job losses in country

643. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is well aware of the fact that unemployment and job losses are on the increase;

(b) if so, the concerted efforts that have been made during the last five years to generate employment and prevent job losses;

(c) whether Government has undertaken any programme for employment generation in different sectors;

(d) whether Government has fixed any target of reducing unemployment to the minimum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Government is concerned about the possible impact of global financial crisis on the Indian economy, including employment and several measures, financial and fiscal, have been taken. A large number of these measures have been taken to help the industry in general and more affected labour intensive export sectors in particular since October 7, 2008.

(c) The Government's concern and efforts about employment generation are well articulated in the 11th Five Year Plan document as well as Economic Survey 2008-09. The Government is implementing various employment generating schemes such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

(d) and (e) The 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) aims at creating 58.07 million work opportunities mainly in services and manufacturing sectors.

Implementation of food security

644. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI N.K.SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently expressed the need for fixing responsibility in case of failure in implementing the Food Security Act;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has urged involvement of Panchayats in the task as they are directly related to the intended beneficiaries; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of the Government on the proposed Food Security Act and its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) No Sir.

Food Security was-announced by the Hon'ble President of India in her address to the both Houses of Parliament on 4th June 2009. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is nodal ministry responsible for formulating the proposed bill.